

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new): A sign language interpretation system which interconnects a videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons used by a deaf-mute person capable of using sign language, a videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons used by a non-deaf-mute person incapable of using sign language, and a videophone terminal for sign language interpreters used by a sign language interpreter in order to provide sign language interpretation in a conversation between a deaf-mute person and a non-deaf-mute person over a videophone, said sign language interpretation system comprising:

communications means individually equipped with a line interface for deaf-mute persons to which a deaf-mute person terminal is to be connected, a line interface for non-deaf-mute persons to which a non-deaf-mute person terminal is to be connected, and a line interface for sign language interpreters to which a sign language interpreter terminal is to be connected, said communications means includes a function to simultaneously perform: a function to synthesize at least a video from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and a video from said line interface for sign language interpreters and transmit the resulting video to said line interface for deaf-mute persons; a function to transmit at least a video from said line interface for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said line interface for sign language interpreters to said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons; and a function to transmit at least a video from said line

interface for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons to said line interface for sign language interpreters; and

connection means equipped with a sign language interpreter registration table in which the terminal number of a sign language interpreter is registered, said connection means including: a function to accept a call to said line interface for deaf-mute persons or said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and connect the calling terminal; a function to prompt said calling terminal to enter the terminal number of the called terminals; a function to extract the terminal number of a sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table; a function to call and connect the sign language interpreter terminal by using said extracted terminal number of the sign language interpreter from said line interface for sign language interpreters; and a function to call and connect the called terminal by using said acquired called terminal number, from said line interface for the non-deaf-mute person terminal in case said calling terminal is connected to the line interface for deaf-mute persons, or from said line interface for the deaf-mute person terminal in case said calling terminal is connected to the line interface for non-deaf-mute persons.

Claim 12 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein selection information for selecting a sign language interpreter is registered in said sign language interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to acquire the conditions for selecting a sign language interpreter from said calling terminal and a function to extract the

terminal number of a sign language interpreter who satisfies said extracted selection conditions from said sign language interpreter registration table.

Claim 13 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein an availability flag to indicate whether a sign language interpreter is available is registered in the sign language interpreter registration table; and

said connection means includes a function to extract the terminal number of an available sign language interpreter by referencing the availability flags in the sign language interpreter registration table.

Claim 14 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate text messages to be respectively transmitted to the deaf-mute person terminal, non-deaf-mute person terminal and sign language interpreter terminal; and

said communications means includes a function to synthesize said respective messages generated onto videos to be transmitted to said line interface for deaf-mute persons, said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and said line interface for sign language interpreters, respectively.

Claim 15 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 14, wherein said connection means includes a function to generate a voice message to be transmitted to said terminal for non-deaf-mute persons; and

said communications means includes a function to synthesize said generated message onto an audio to be transmitted to said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons.

Claim 16 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, equipped with a term registration table for registering a term used during a videophone conversation, wherein said connection means includes a function to detect a push on a dial pad at a terminal by way of an audio from said line interface for deaf-mute persons or said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons or said line interface for sign language interpreters and to register a term corresponding to the number of the dial pad detected in said term registration table and that said communications means includes a function to detect a push on a dial pad at a terminal by way of an audio from said line interface for deaf-mute persons or said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons or said line interface for sign language interpreters during a videophone conversation and extract a term specified by said term registration table in association with the number of the dial pad detected to generate a telop, and a function to synthesize said generated telop onto a video to be transmitted to at least one of said line interface for deaf-mute persons, said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and said line interface for sign language interpreters.

Claim 17 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to Claim 11, wherein said communications means includes a function to transmit a video obtained by synthesizing one of a video from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and a

video from said line interface for sign language interpreters as a main window and the other as a sub window to said line interface for deaf-mute persons.

Claim 18 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein said communications means includes a function to transmit a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said line interface for deaf-mute persons as a main window and a video from said line interface for sign language interpreters as a sub window to said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons.

Claim 19 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein said communications means includes a function to transmit a video obtained by synthesizing a video from said line interface for deaf-mute persons and a video from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons to said line interface for sign language interpreters.

Claim 20 (new): The sign language interpretation system according to claim 11, wherein said communications means includes a function to detect a push on a dial pad at a terminal during a videophone conversation by way of an audio from said line interface for deaf-mute persons or said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons or said line interface for sign language interpreters and change a method for synthesizing a video and/or an audio to be transmitted to the line interface in association with the number of the dial pad detected.

Claim 21 (new): A method for providing sign language interpretation in a conversation between a deaf-mute person and a non-deaf-mute person over a videophone, said method interconnecting a videophone terminal for deaf-mute persons used by a deaf-mute person capable of using sign language, a videophone terminal for non-deaf-mute persons used by a non-deaf-mute person incapable of using sign language, and a videophone terminal for a sign language interpreter used by the sign interpreter, said method individually equipped with a line interface for deaf-mute persons to which a deaf-mute person terminal is to be connected, a line interface for non-deaf-mute persons to which a non-deaf-mute person terminal is to be connected, and a line interface for sign language interpreters to which a sign language interpreter terminal is to be connected, said method comprising:

a step of simultaneously performing steps of: synthesizing at least a video from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and a video from said line interface for sign language interpreters and transmitting the resulting video to said line interface for deaf-mute persons; transmitting at least a video from said line interface for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said line interface for sign language interpreters to said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons; and transmitting at least a video from said line interface for deaf-mute persons and an audio from said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons to said line interface for sign language interpreters; and

said method is equipped with a sign language interpreter registration table where the terminal number of a sign language interpreter is registered, said method including steps of:

accepting a call to said line interface for deaf-mute persons or said line interface for non-deaf-mute persons and connecting the calling terminal;

prompting said calling terminal to enter the terminal number of the called terminal;

extracting the terminal number of a sign language interpreter from said sign language interpreter registration table;

calling and connecting the sign language interpreter terminal by using said extracted terminal number of the sign language interpreter from said line interface for sign language interpreters; and

calling and connecting the called terminal by using said acquired called terminal number, from said line interface for the non-deaf-mute person terminal in case said calling terminal is connected to the line interface for deaf-mute persons, or from said line interface for the deaf-mute person terminal in case said calling terminal is connected to the line interface for non-deaf-mute persons.